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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,625	04/17/2001	Kenichiro Sakai	121.1012	7047
21171	7590	09/08/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				FRANKLIN, JAMARA ALZAIDA
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2876		

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/835,625	SAKAI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jamara A. Franklin	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 August 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-5,9-14 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) 6-8 and 15-17 is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/10/04 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 9-14, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chandler et al. (US 5,296,690) (hereinafter referred to as 'Chandler').

Chandler teaches an apparatus extracting two-dimensional code from an input document, comprising:

an image scanner scanning the document, and outputting input image (48) data; and

a programmed computer processor connected to said image scanner and controlling the apparatus according to a two-dimensional code extraction process, comprising:

scanning said input image data in a square block unit of MxN pixels (M and N are positive integers) (col. 6, lines 12-23),

detecting blocks (49) that satisfy specific conditions from said scanned blocks, detecting one or more two-dimensional code regions, each two-dimensional code region comprising a number of neighboring and contiguous blocks (49) from among said detected blocks, and

extracting one or more two-dimensional codes from among the detected two-dimensional code regions (col. 7, lines 52-63);

wherein a block that includes a ratio of white pixels and black pixels that falls within a specific range is detected as a block (49) satisfying said specific conditions (col. 6, lines 12-23);

wherein a block that includes a ratio between transition points of pixels within horizontal lines or vertical lines of the block and a total number of pixels of the block that falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions (col. 7, lines 24-38 and col. 7, line 52- col. 8, line 3);

wherein a block in which variation of vertical or horizontal projection of black pixels included in each line in the block falls within a specific range is detected as a block satisfying said specific conditions (col. 6, lines 24-34);

the method further comprising:

detecting a two-dimensional code region comprising a maximum number of detected neighboring and contiguous blocks from among the detected two-dimensional code regions; and

the method further comprising:

detecting a two-dimensional code region comprising a maximum number of detected contiguous blocks (49) from among the detected two-dimensional code regions.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 6-8 and 15-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 6 and 15, the prior art of record fails to teach, or fairly suggest either alone or in combination thereof, the method of extracting a square area including the detected position as the two-dimensional code region. No motivation has been found to combine a reference teaching the aforementioned element to arrive at the claimed invention;

Regarding claims 7 and 16, the prior art of record fails to teach, or fairly suggest either alone or in combination thereof, the method of calculating average distance between pairs of black pixels within the scanned blocks and extracting a scanned block as a detected block satisfying the specific conditions, when a determination is made that the calculated average distance exceeds a predetermined value. No motivation has been found to combine a reference teaching the aforementioned element to arrive at the claimed invention; and

Regarding claims 8 and 17, the prior art of record fails to teach, or fairly suggest either alone or in combination thereof, the method of determine an angle of inclination of a detected two-dimensional code region; and correcting the angle of inclination, if the angle of inclination

exceeds a specific value. No motivation has been found to combine a reference teaching the aforementioned element to arrive at the claimed invention.

Response to Arguments

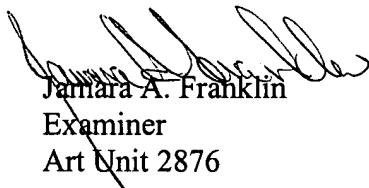
6. Applicant's arguments, filed 8/10/04, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-20 under Krichever (US 5,591,952) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Chandler et al. (US 5,296,690).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamara A. Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-2389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jamara A. Franklin
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

JAF
September 3, 2004


KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER